

Montaup Country Club Centenary

The Land—The History—The People—The Neighbors
The Golf



Montaup
MON TOP— MONT HAUP — MOUNT HOPE



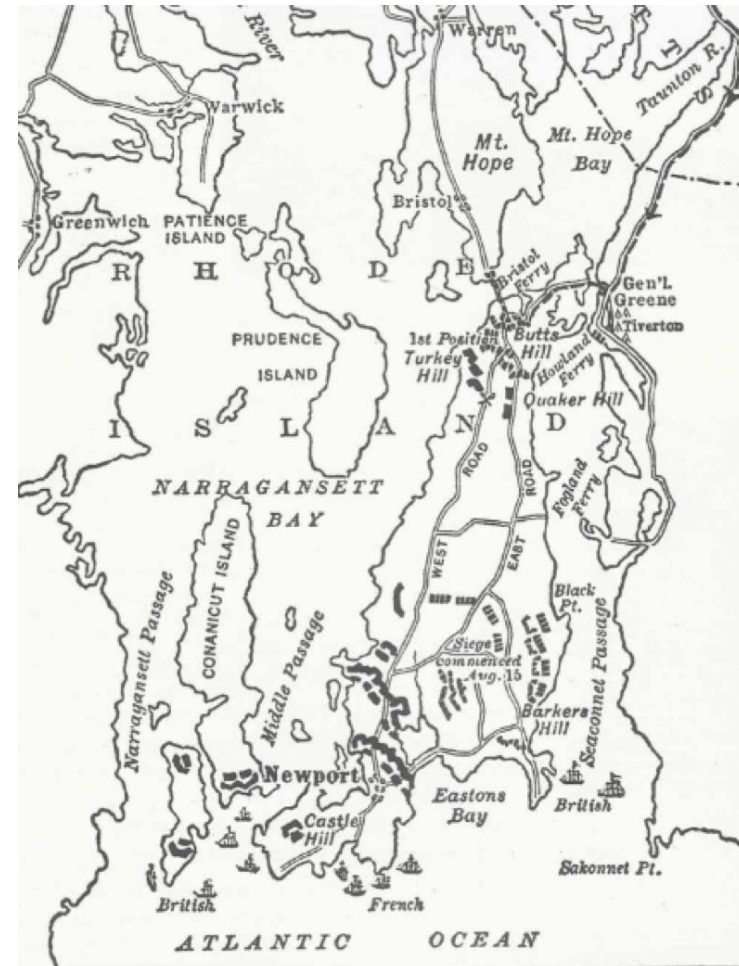
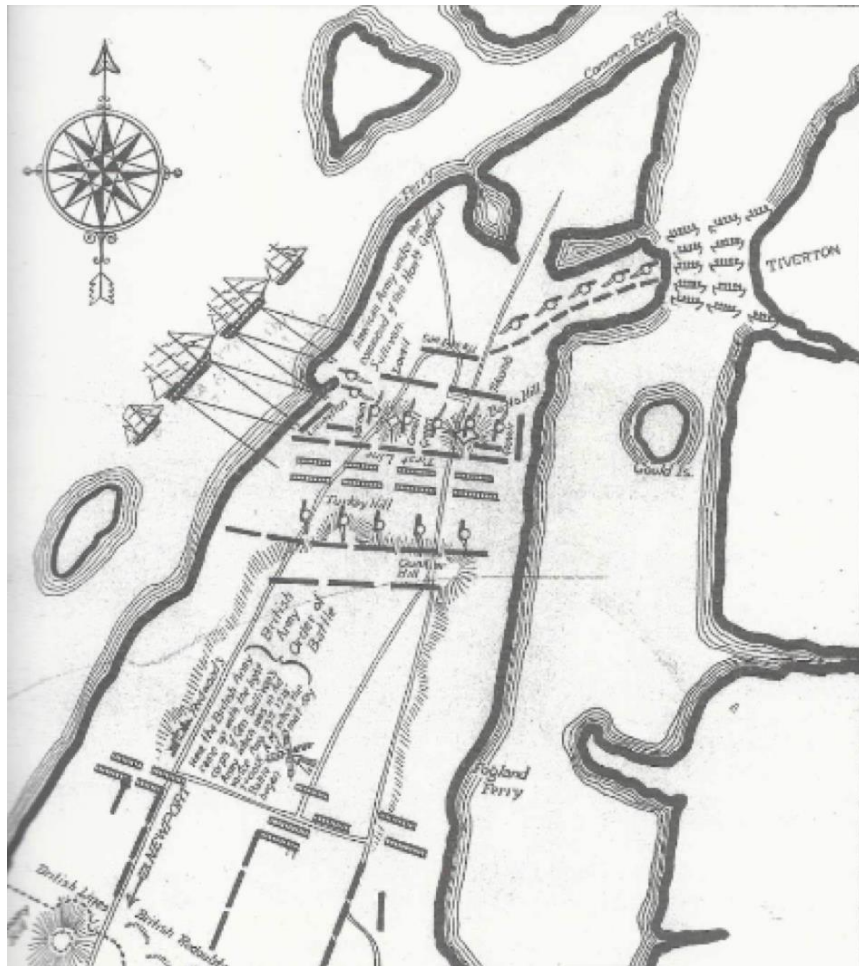
Common Fence Point



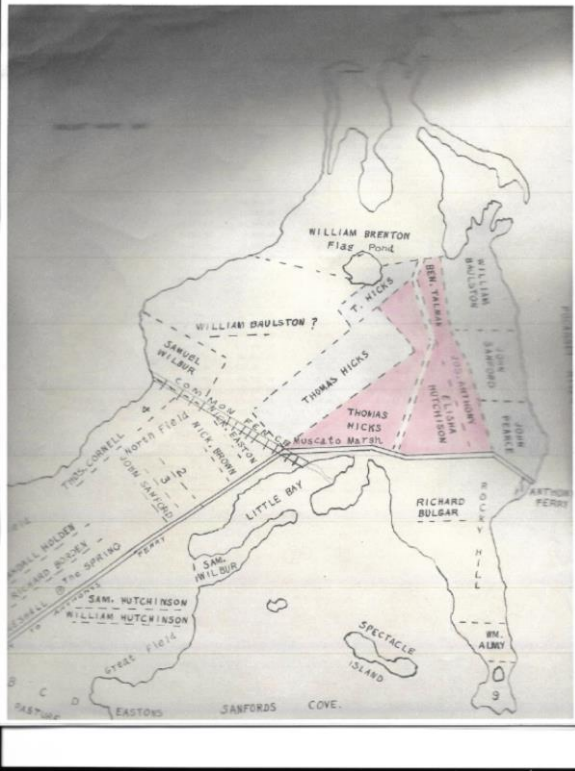
Approximate Location of the Original Common Fence

The Battle of Rhode Island

August 29, 1778



The Great September Gale and The Year Without a Summer 1815-1818



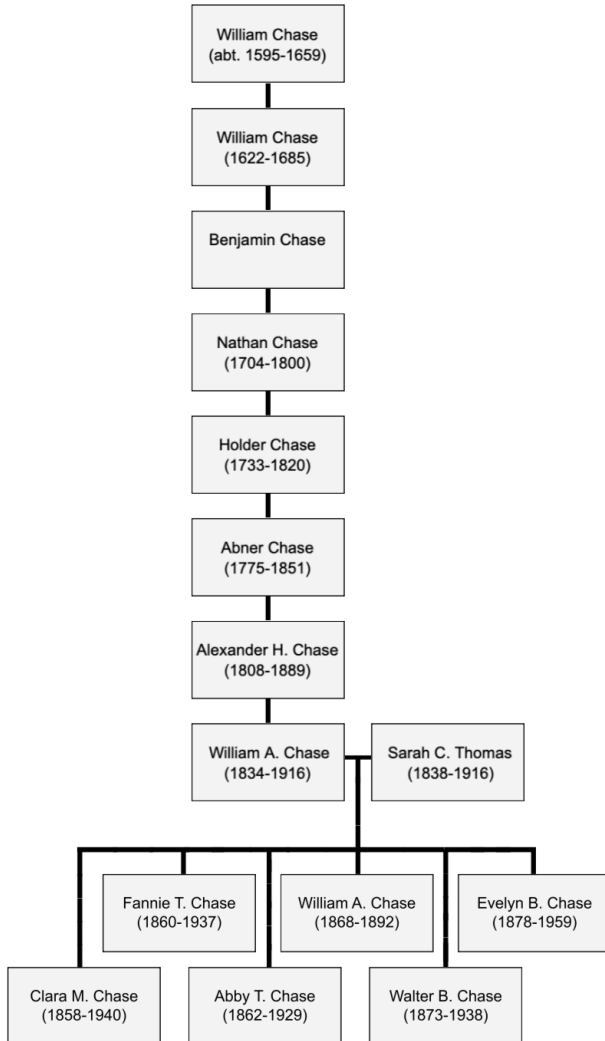
Common Fence Point 1630

“To be alive in the years 1816-18, almost anywhere in the world, meant to be hungry.”

—Gillen D’Arcy Wood, Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Chase Family

Chase Family Pedigree



Abner and Dorothy Chase

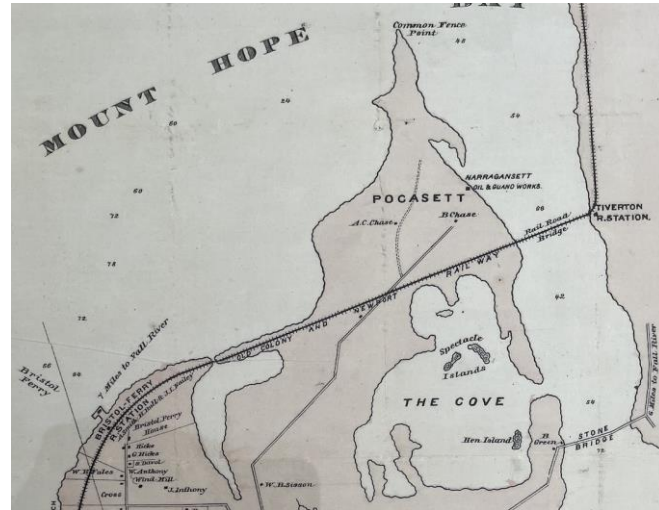


Clara and Fannie Chase

The Chase Family Farms



1819

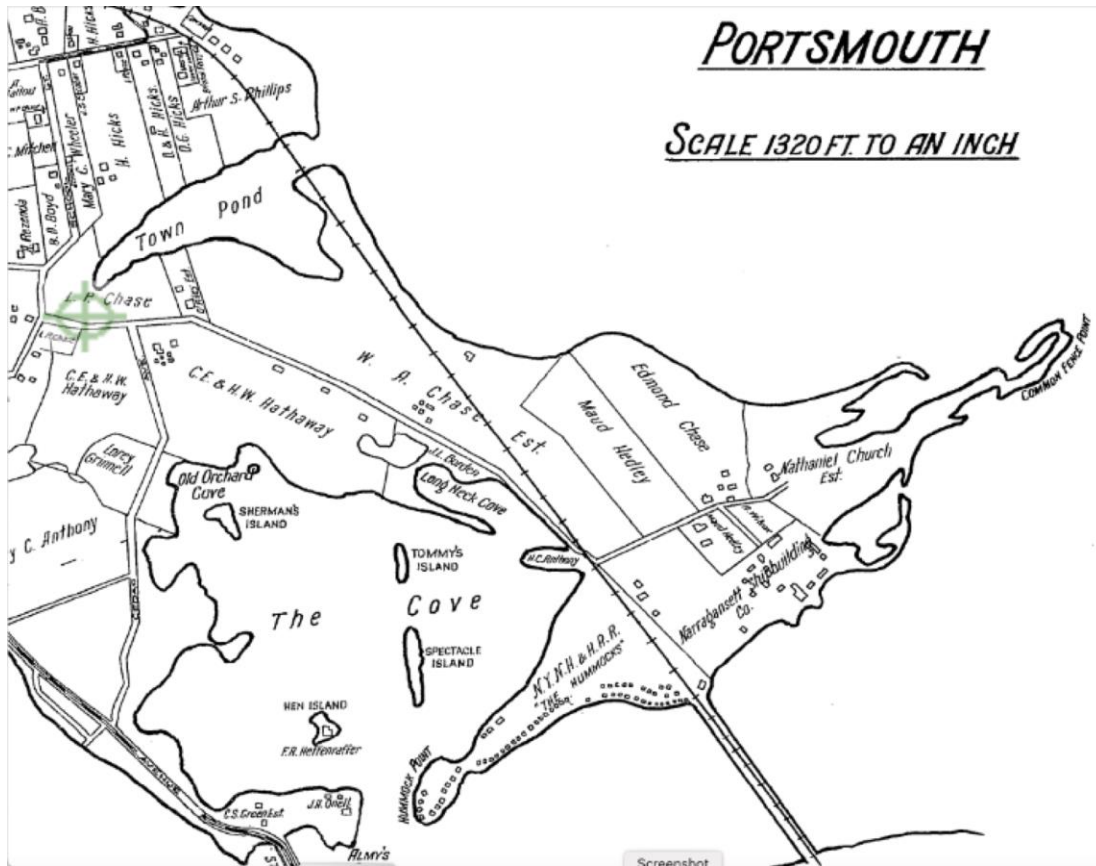


1866

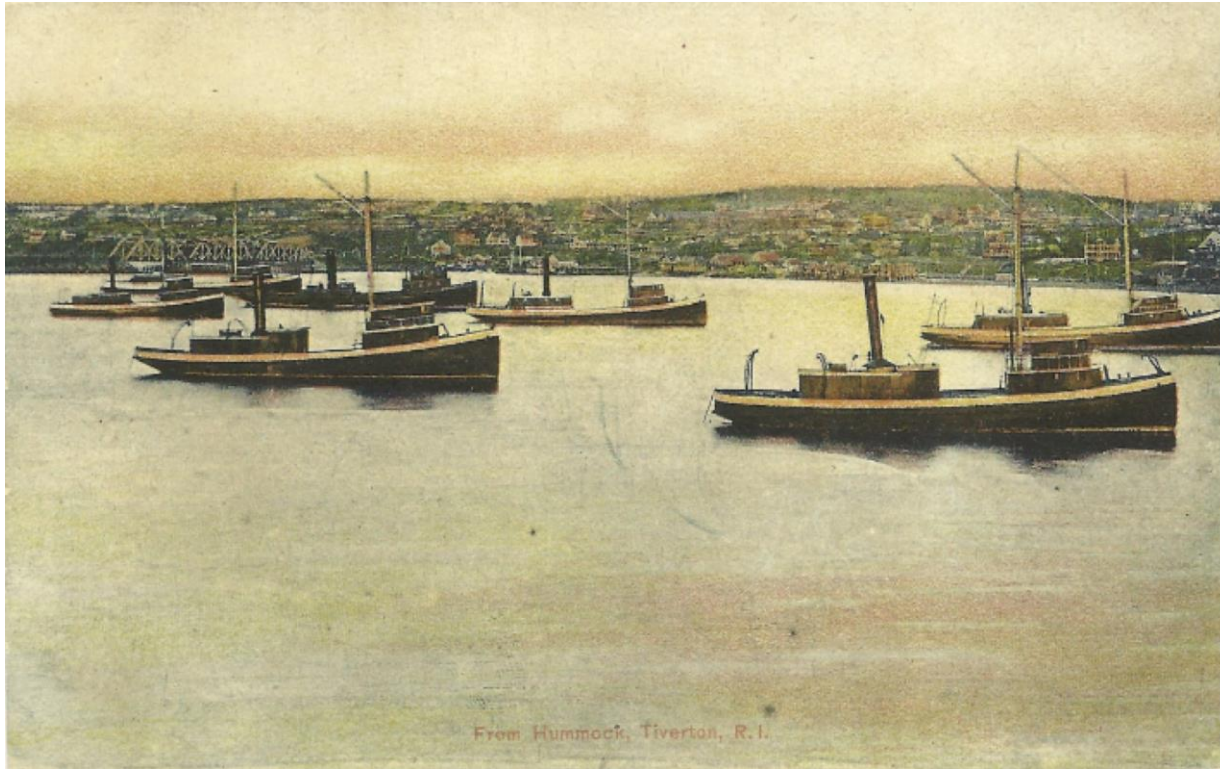


1907

William A. Chase Property

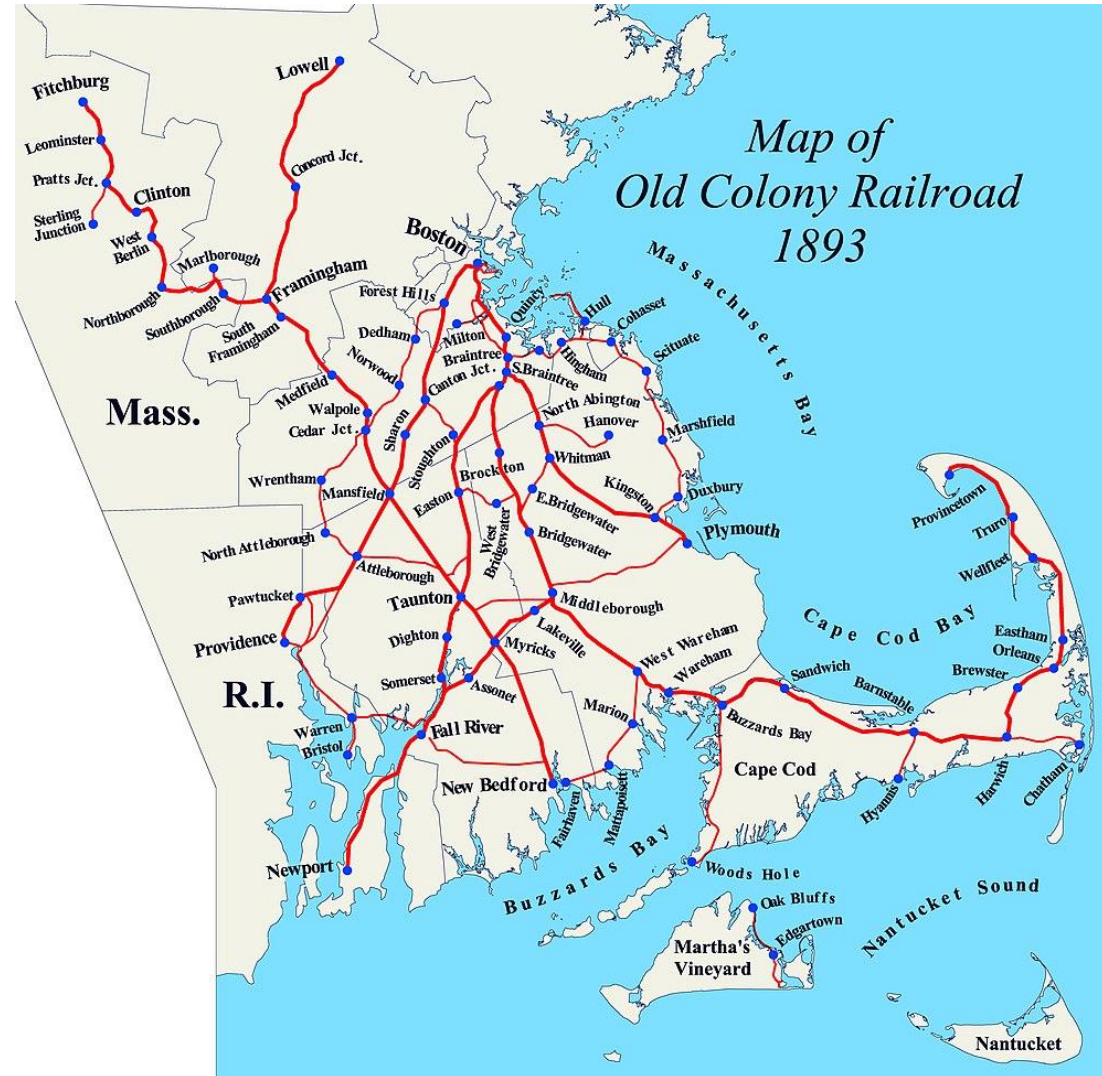


Fish Oil and Guano ~1865-1928



“Excess fish were left on the ground to rot outside, and the rank odor would waft in every direction.” — Jim Garman, Portsmouth Historical Society

Easements Good Neighbors



1923

A New Portsmouth Golf Club

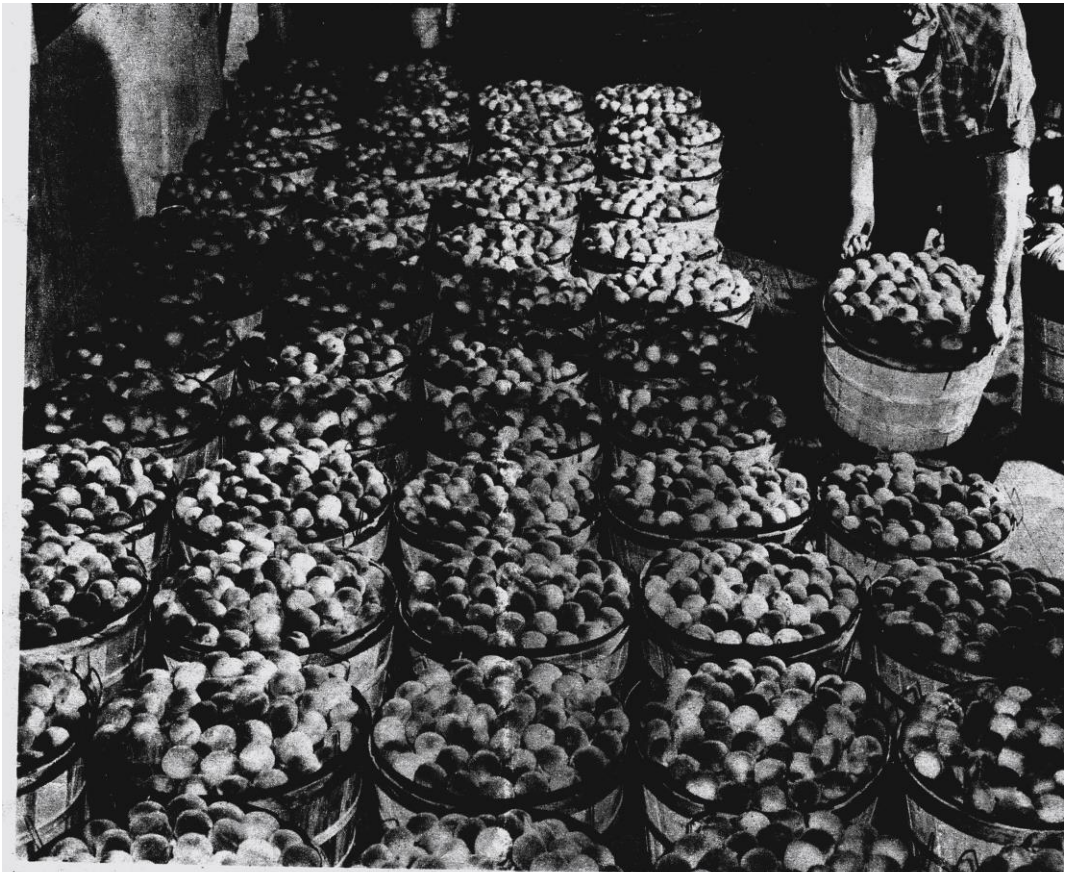
NEW PORTSMOUTH GOLF CLUB

A charter was granted by Secretary of State Parker Tuesday to Arthur A. Sherman, Francis S. Borden, Walter B. Chase, Seth De Blois, Clinton P. Woodman, Samuel A. Boynton and A. W. Jennings, for the incorporation of the Montaup Country club, which will be located at Portsmouth. The Montaup Country club, which received a charter this week, proposes to take over the farm of the late William Alfred Chase, near Common Fence Point, and quite near the Hummock. A rough golf course has been used for practice for two seasons.



Frederick Webb

Really Love Your Peaches Wanna Shake Your Tree Neighbors 1926



BLUSHING HARVEST

It's Pickin' Time in the State's Largest
Peach Orchard; 25,000 - Bushel Crop

A very small part of the 25,000 bushels of rosy-red, de-vested at the Hathaway orchard in Portsmouth is the packing house on Anthony road. Peaches are picke



Tom Jones

~1924

“Your Board of Directors have employed Mr. Jones, the Prof. of the Fall River Country Club to lay out and superintend the construction of the proposed golf links. Mr. Jones who has had several years experience in building golf links has suggested an 18 hole course which is our ultimate aim, but owing to a portion of this farm still being under lease for 3 years a nine hold course only can be built at present. This nine hole course has been laid out in such manner that it would become a part of the 18 hole course as planned and work upon it will be started as soon as certain details have been more thoroughly studied by your directors.”

Tom Jones, NE Pro Vet, Dies Suddenly

TOM JONES, for 17 years pro at the Rhode Island CC prior to entering defense work last fall, died of a heart attack at his home in Warren, R. I., Aug. 20. He was 49 years old.

Jones was born in the clubhouse at Stafford, Eng. His father, John Jones, came to the U. S. as pro at Myopia, where Tom entered the game as his dad's assistant. In 1912 Tom got his first pro job, at Auburn (N. Y.) CC. Prior to taking the Rhode Island CC appointment, he

served the Albany (N. Y.) CC, Lancaster (Pa.) CC and Fall River (Mass.) CC.

Tom was one of the founders of the PGA of New England and of the New England Open championship. He was teaching junior group classes long before the idea became general in pro golf. He was a pioneer in developing caddie systems that helped the boys and the game and the players. He also was responsible for the development of many excellent amateur and pro golfers.

He is survived by his wife, his mother, two sons and a daughter.

Tom was warmly regarded by golfers in New England and other parts of the country as one of the fine characters who built the game in the U. S.

Score Card

Rules and Regulations

Circa ~1925

REPLACE DIVOTS

1. Never talk while a player is playing.
2. If you are holding a match following: always signal them to go through and don't start play until they are out of range.
3. Never go through a preceding match until so allowed by members of that match.
4. Never buy balls from caddies.

OUT OF BOUNDS

ALL BALLS OFF OF PROPERTY

- No. 1--- Outside of fence on left of fairway
No. 2--- To left of line of boundary stakes
No. 3--- Over wall on left of fairway
No. 4--- To left of line of boundary stakes
 In apple orchard
No. 5--- To right of line of boundary stakes
No. 6--- Outside of line of stakes ---- (two ways)
No. 7--- To right of line of boundary stakes. All
 balls on Brown Farm
No. 8--- Over railroad fence. In apple orchard. Ball
 lying within cemetery bounds may be lifted and
 dropped without penalty but no nearer to No. 8 hole
No. 9--- Over wall on left of fairway and over
 railroad fence

H. A. Rosa, M.D.
Arthur N. Paquin
Edward Corbett

Tournament
Committee

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR
GUESTS

SCORE CARD

MONTAUP
COUNTRY CLUB

PORTSMOUTH R. I.

HANDICAP ALLOWANCES

In single matches allow $\frac{3}{4}$ of difference, in
four ball matches allow $\frac{3}{8}$ of difference of
combined handicaps. If result is fraction
over, allow one more.

$\frac{3}{4}$ of
1 eq. 1
2 2
3 2
4 3
5 4
6 5
7 5
8 6
9 7
10 8
11 8
12 9
13 10
14 11
15 11
16 12
17 13
18 14
19 14
20 15
21 15
22 17
23 17
24 18

LEVEL FOOTPRINTS IN BUNKERS

Score Card

Scoring and Handicaps

Circa ~1925

REPLACE

TURF

Date _____

Handicap Figures in Red (H)

BEST BALL

(A) (B) (A-B) BOGEY HOLE YARDS H PAR (C) (D) (C-D)

BEST BALL

Total Score for Tournaments

		(A)	(B)	(A-B)	BOGEY	HOLE	YARDS	H	PAR	(C)	(D)	(C-D)	Tournaments
			5	1	413	5	4						Match Play
			3	2	131	17	3						
			4	3	333	7	4						(A)
			3	4	131	15	3						
			5	5	319	9	4						(B)
			3	6	151	13	3						
			6	7	544	1	5						(C)
			5	8	457		5						
			5	9	418	3	4						(D)
			4	10	314	11	4						
			43	Out	3216		39						
<hr/>													
			5	11	413	6	4						Medal Play
			3	12	131	18	3						
			4	13	333	8	4						(A)
			3	14	131	16	3						
			5	15	319	10	4						(B)
			3	16	151	14	3						
			6	17	544	2	5						(C)
			5	18	457		5						
			5	19	418	4	4						(D)
			4	20	314	12	4						
			86	Out	6432		78						
<hr/>													
Total													<p>PLEASE</p> <p>TURN IN</p> <p>ALL YOUR</p> <p>SCORES</p>
HANDICAP													
NET SCORE													

Attested _____ Signed _____

Stone Bridge Howland's Ferry—Anthony's Ferry



Mount Hope Bridge 1927-1929



Ringer Tournament 1933

Sample scores with best score highlighted

Below is a sample of one player's scores with the first best score on each hole highlighted from our Handicap System. Under the scores is a one-row listing of the best scores. A ringer board or ringer report would be a compilation of this one row for all players in your golf group.

Score#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Front	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Back	Total
#1	7	4	4	8	5	4	5	8	4	49	4	3	7	8	4	4	5	7	2	44	93
#2	4	4	8	4	7	7	5	5	7	51	2	7	6	4	6	6	6	6	5	48	99
#3	7	4	6	6	6	6	4	8	3	50	7	8	5	8	3	6	4	6	2	49	99
#4	5	3	7	6	8	6	6	3	2	46	3	4	7	8	4	7	5	6	3	47	93
#5	3	6	5	6	3	7	4	3	5	42	7	5	8	5	6	5	4	5	7	52	94
#6	6	5	7	6	7	5	3	7	5	51	5	8	8	7	3	6	5	7	5	54	105
#7	6	8	6	6	3	7	6	3	6	51	7	4	7	6	3	6	5	8	7	53	104
#8	6	7	5	7	5	4	8	8	6	56	5	4	6	4	5	7	8	5	4	48	104
#9	3	3	7	5	3	4	4	8	7	44	6	8	6	4	7	4	4	7	2	48	92
#10	4	8	6	6	4	8	8	3	2	49	2	8	8	5	4	8	4	7	5	51	100
#11	7	5	5	7	5	7	8	3	2	49	7	8	5	6	7	8	5	8	2	56	105
#12	7	5	5	4	8	5	4	3	5	46	3	4	4	6	6	6	3	4	4	40	86
#13	3	8	7	7	4	6	5	3	4	47	6	5	4	5	5	4	8	5	4	46	93
#14	3	4	8	7	5	8	8	3	7	53	6	7	8	8	4	6	6	4	3	52	105
Best Score	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	29	2	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	29	58
Avg Score	5.1	5.3	6.1	6.1	5.2	6.0	5.6	4.9	4.6		5.0	5.9	6.4	5.9	4.8	5.9	5.4	6.0	3.9		98.0

Sample ringer board

Below is a sample ringer board for a fictional eight players sorted by lowest 18-hole total first.

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Front	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Back	Total
Player #5	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	26	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	28	56
Player #4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	29	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	28	57
Player #2	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	26	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	3	29	57
Player #7	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	26	2	3	4	4	3	4	5	3	2	30	58
Player #8	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	3	31	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	28	59
Player #3	2	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	30	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	2	29	59
Player #1	2	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	2	32	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	28	60
Player #6	2	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	29	2	3	4	4	3	4	3	7	2	32	61



Dick Keenan — Old Pro 1930's

Sports in the News

Golf's Alonzo Stagg

JOHN J. (DICK) KEENAN of this city is Golf's Alonzo Stagg. For 70 years Dick, now 83, has been interested in golf as a caddy, professional, player, advisor and fan. Dick and Mrs. Keenan recently were guests of honor of Portsmouth's Montaup Country Club at its annual tee-off dinner. He is former Montaup pro and is a lifetime honorary member there.

Dick's golfing career started when he was 13 at the Newport Country Club. Before that season was over, Keenan was named assistant pro, probably a record which still stands. His first pupil was Mrs. John Jacob Astor, now Lady Astor of England.

Dick was three years old when he arrived from Ireland with his family in New York City. That was in 1883, the year the Brooklyn Bridge was finished. Dick was so impressed by the bridge that he remembers the final stages of the construction work.

Not many athletes half as old as Dick have retained his keen interest in their favorite sport. Dick has, and is, making a wonderful contribution to golf. There is no substitute for enthusiasm and kindness and Dick has these qualities in abundance.

• • • • •
BILL MANNING, owner of a local automobile supply store, was among the many sports figures who attended the testimonial dinner for veteran golf pro Dick Keenan recently. Manning is the only survivor of the group which financed the purchase of Portsmouth land for the Montaup Country Club golf course.

The Montaup Club sponsored the Keenan dinner. Manning's sports interests included duck pin bowling as well as golf. In his youth he was one of the ranking bowlers in Fall River's top league, the Society at the Empire.

• • • • •

John J. (Dick) Keenan, first caddy champion of the U.S., appointed caddy-master of Newport (RI) CC. . . Keenan won the initial caddy championship in 1895 on Long Island. . . Monterey (Calif.) public school

NEWPORT'S DICK KEENAN, one of the first golf professionals in the nation, is observing his eighty-fifth birthday today. And no golfer is looking forward to the coming season so eagerly as Dick. A life member of the Montaup Country Club, Dick plans a busy year of golf.

Dick Keenan — Old Pro Testimonial

By STEVE SULLIVAN

Boston Globe—26 Jul 1963

Newport's octogenarian golf pro, venerable John (Dick) Keenan, was recently feted at the Fall River Country Club's Annual Old Timers Tournament. The widely known and highly respected 83-year-old former Newport Country Club caddy and pro was elected president emeritus of the New England Old Timers' Golf Association and was presented with a handsome trophy in recognition of his long and meritorious service to golf and its enthusiasts. Although Keenan has over a span of more than 65 years been honored by numerous testimonials and has been the recipient of many trophies, he informed this writer that none ever touched him "like this one did." He termed his election and presentation a "wonderful gesture" on the part of his Fall River golfing associates. One searching for a panacea for keeping fit and youthful despite the ravages of Father Time's inevitable scythe would do well to reflect on the enthusiasm and dedication maintained throughout the past half-century by Keenan for the zestful sport which he had mastered when but a lad.

Arriving in Newport's "Faithful Fifth Ward" at the age of three from County Sligo, Ireland, Dick, like many of the rest of the youth of his day, was soon hiking his way over to the Newport Country Club to tote bags for Newport Society's storied 400. William F. Davis, a pioneer golfer and one of the first to introduce the game in America, who was serving as the club's "pro" in 1893, took the Keenan lad under his wing and laid open his bag of tricks for him to master. It wasn't too long before Dick, as he is affectionately referred to, was acting as Davis' assistant. When Davis left the area, Keenan divided the pro chores with one Robert Stoner. At the age of 16, he had attained his adopted home town's coveted "golf pro" sinecure. The demand for his services for exclusive instructions by numerous summer colony families dictated his designation as the club's pro. His genuine interest in teaching and developing a good sport as well as a good golfer locally earned him a reputation throughout the East almost immediately. His prowess on the links also carried him throughout the sunny Southland where he spent the winter teaching at many of the region's exclusive clubs.

He eventually served as "pro" and superintendent at the Myopia Hunt Club, Hamilton, Mass., and The Highland Park Country Club in Aiken, S.C. After four years at the Charles River Country Club in Newton Center, Mass., he opened the Andover, Mass., Country Club. As the Scottish sport mushroomed throughout this country, Dick visualized the need for coordinating and standardizing its then unwieldy rules and regulations, and was significantly instrumental in organizing what are now the New England Golf Association and the Professional Golf Association of New England. Among the many players developed under his tutelage were Joe Batchelder and Elmer Ward, both eventual winners of the New England amateur golf association championship. Keenan was at this time hailed by the New York Herald as one of the world's outstanding golf instructors. Included among his pupils in the "pitch and putt" art were such notables as the New York Yankees' Sultan of Swat, Babe Ruth, Sir Thomas Tate of Canada, and Mrs. John Jacob Astor. The illustrious Walter Hagen, with whom he often played, was without question Keenan's most prized pupil.

Gave Ike Pointers

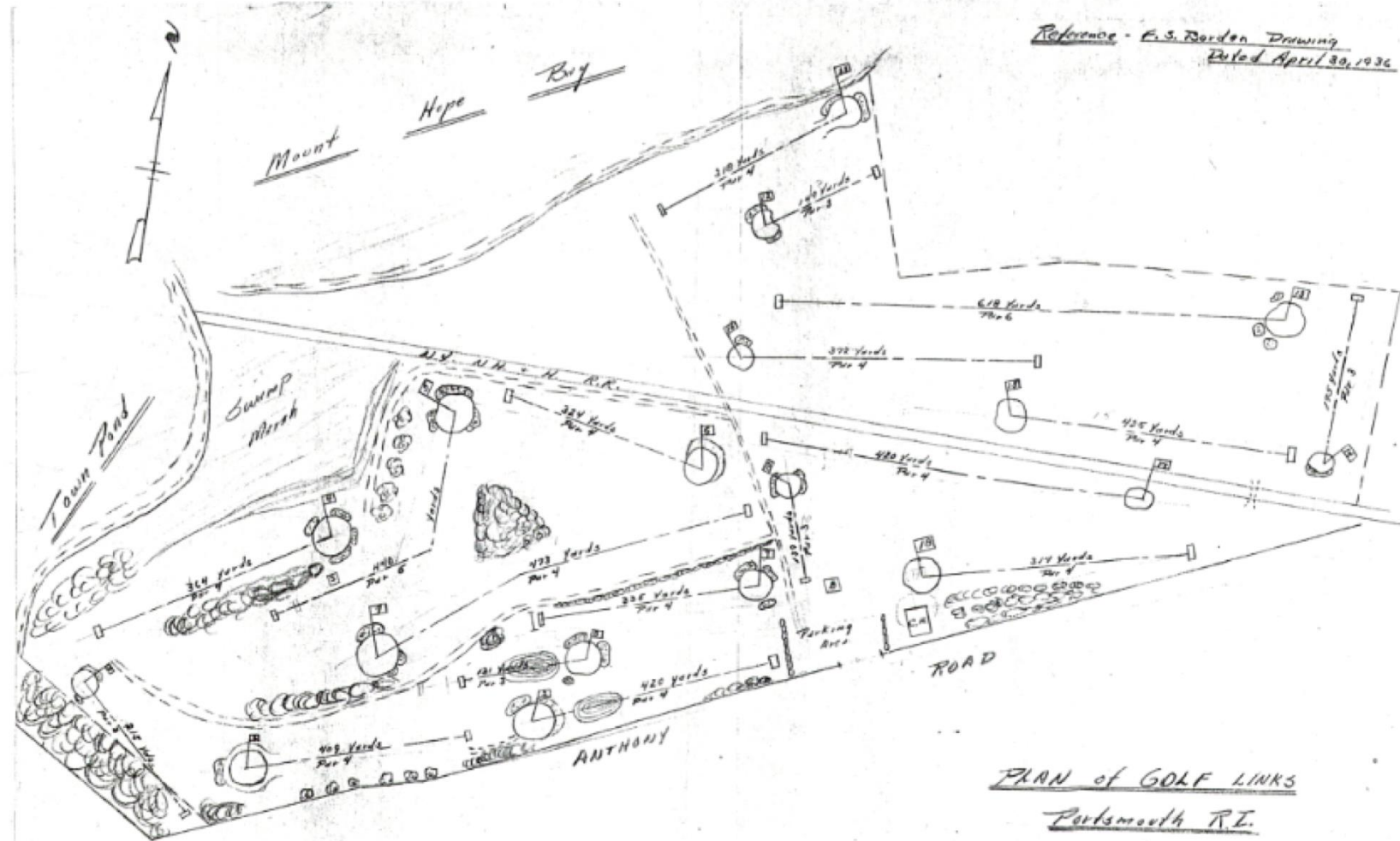
Dick was also on hand a few years ago at the local Country Club to give former President Eisenhower a few pointers during his Newport visits, and is anxiously looking forward to do likewise should President and Mrs. Kennedy make an appearance there this summer. In fact nothing pleases Dick more than an opportunity to try and convince all of the members of the First Family of the health advantages of golf over their favorite touch football pastime.

Any claims which Nikita Khrushchev's Red propagandists might make regarding the origin of golf behind the Iron Curtin will be vigorously refuted by this chipper veteran, since he insists that Grand Duke Boris of Imperial Russia was introduced to the gentleman's sport by none other than himself.

Though now in his early eighties Keenan is a very spry and active gentleman who can be seen almost daily at the Montaup Country Club in Portsmouth, where he holds a life membership. He likes nothing better than assisting free of charge, embryo "duffers" with the techniques of "his" games' basic fundamentals. His greatest satisfaction these days is being of assistance in their proper development.

The Fall River Country Club is to be congratulated for honoring our city's inimitable golfer, one who indisputably qualifies for the genuine "old pro" accolade.

The Dream of 18 Holes 1936

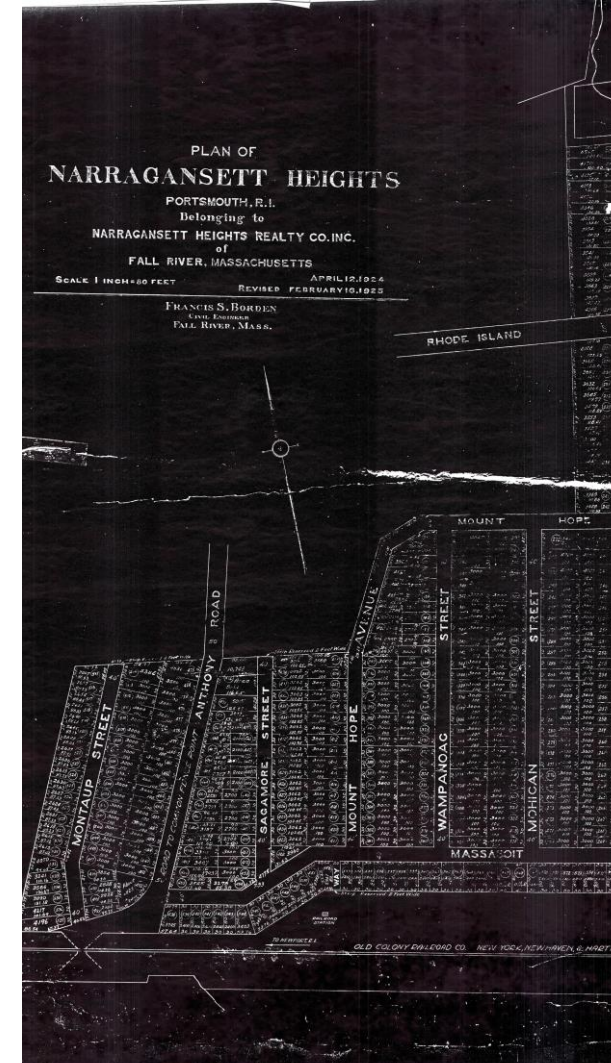


PLAN of GOLF LINKS
Portsmouth R.I.
at
MONTAUP COUNTRY CLUB
No. 3066 for study only

Aerial Photo — 1939

Narragansett Heights Plat Map — 1924

& Today



Hurricane of '38

HURRICANE KILLS AT LEAST 125 IN STATE; 29 DEAD, 52 MISSING IN WESTERLY; LOSS PUT IN MILLIONS

WESTERLY AREA TOLL IS 29 DEAD AND 52 MISSING

Many Cottages at Beaches Swept Into Ocean Carrying Occupants to Death

At least 29 persons died, many millions of dollars of property damage, was brought, and the coast line of Rhode Island was completely unrecognizable within a period of a few hours. The high, driving waves in the breaking tide ran into the coast line at Westerly, R. I., on the day of Wednesday, Sept. 21.

Westerly, R. I., was the scene of the most serious damage in the state. The town, which has a population of about 1,000, was almost completely destroyed. The town hall, the school, and many of the houses were swept into the ocean. The town was left a desolate waste.

The death toll in Westerly was 29, and 52 persons were missing. Many of the victims were children. The loss of property was estimated at millions of dollars.

As Hurricane-Swept Wave Flooded Providence



Shed by the sea, a building collapsed at the Providence coast near Westerly, Rhode Island, during the hurricane. The sea was high and the wind was strong.

FLOOD WATERS SWEEP CENTRE OF PROVIDENCE

Roofs Blown Off, Communications Cut, Power Dead, Traffic Stalled

BRIDGES OUT, BOATS ARE WASHED ASHORE

At least 100 persons died, many millions of dollars of property damage, was brought, and the coast line of Rhode Island was completely unrecognizable within a period of a few hours. The high, driving waves in the breaking tide ran into the coast line at Providence, R. I., on the day of Wednesday, Sept. 21.

The centre of Providence was almost completely flooded. The water was several feet deep, and the wind was strong. The roofs of many buildings were blown off, and the communications were cut. The power was dead, and the traffic was stalled.

The bridges were out, and the boats were washed ashore. The loss of property was estimated at millions of dollars.

RULES LISTED IN PROCLAMATION

Proclamation includes listing of 41 striking water carrying boats.

BRITON, HITLER CONFER; CZECH

HURRICANE CASUALTIES KNOWN DEAD IN RHODE ISLAND

COMMUNICATIONS CRIPPLED

The telephone, radio and other means of communication were almost completely cut off. The only communication was by the few people who remained in the state.

Hurricane of '38

“This was the year I was born ... My parents, I was told were playing golf at Montaup and they were taken unawares by the hurricane ... My father had his new Lasalle automobile swept by the rushing water ... he was picked up by my mother and a priest friend and drove home... sounds like he was lucky to survive.” —

Dick O'Connor



Look at LaSalle! **V-8**
CADILLAC MOTOR

THE NEW LASALLE WAS MEANT FOR YOU!

Have you ever thought—"I'd surely like a LaSalle. But I can't afford it!" If you have, get out your pencil and let's do some figuring.

You can buy a LaSalle V-8 for as little as \$1095.* This is the delivered price at Detroit, and includes all standard accessories. You need add only transportation, plus state and local sales taxes (if any), to arrive at the cost of a LaSalle V-8 delivered in your city.

Very likely, your present car will make the down payment on a new LaSalle. The balance you can pay in easy monthly installments to suit your purse.

If you can afford any new car, the chances are you can step on up to LaSalle.

And once you learn what LaSalle has to offer, you'll certainly want to take that step. LaSalle, you know, is built by Cadillac—and is powered by a 125-horsepower V-8 Cadillac engine.

Why not ask your dealer to appraise your present car—and give you the exact amount of your monthly payments on a new LaSalle? He will be glad to do this—without the slightest obligation on your part.

\$1095*
AND UP

PS! Don't worry about operating costs, either, and oil!—and it's so well built that it does a great job keeping out of the service station.

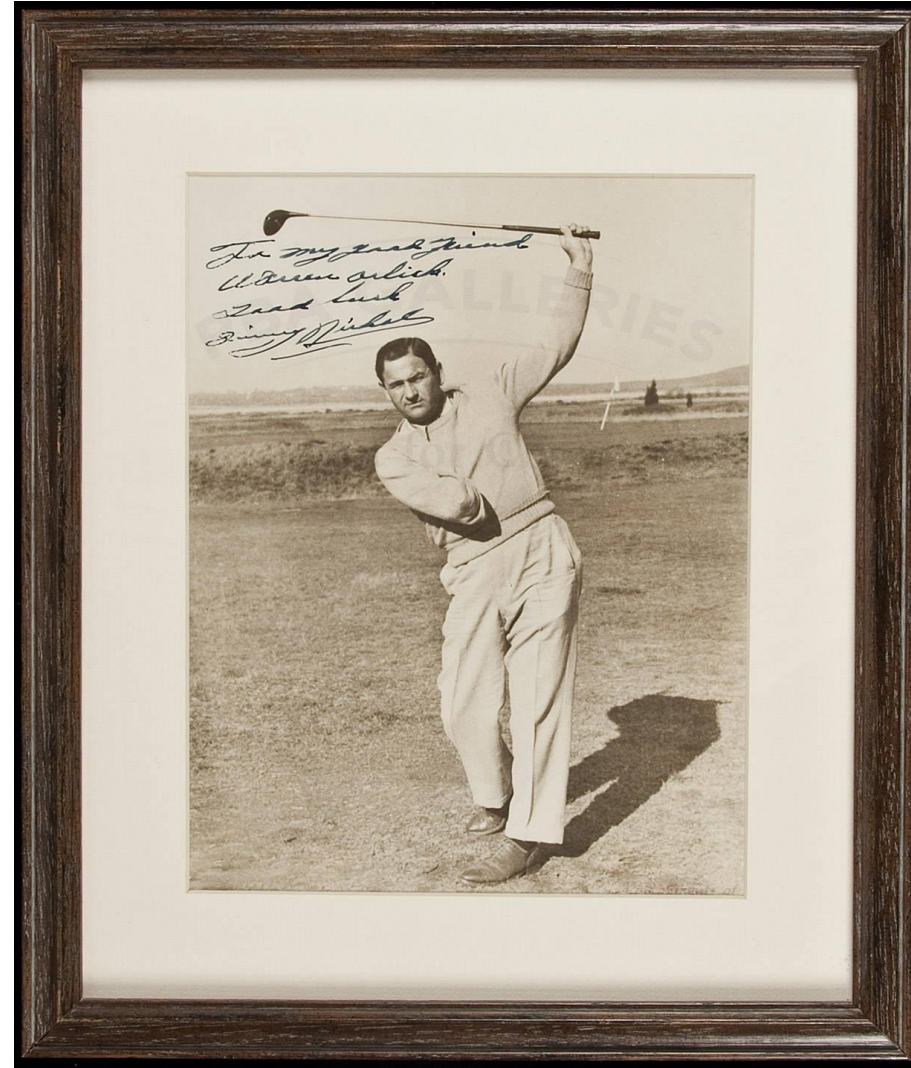
Jimmy Nichols — One Armed Golfer

1940

Did You Know?

Jimmy Nichols, widely known one-armed golfer, has been named pro at the Montaup CC, Portsmouth, R. I. . . . Chuck

Montaup Country Club Golf Divots
July 1940

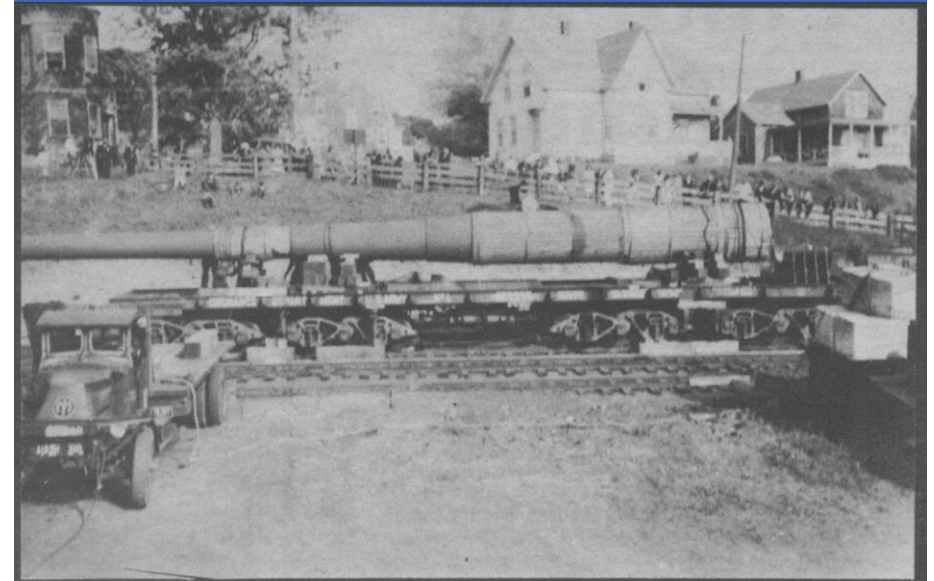


Jimmy Nichols, Rhode Island's famed one-armed **golf** professional, has reduced his **Montaup** club's course record to 68. He needed but four birdies to be 34 each way. Little Charley

20 Jun 1940

World War II

1942-1944



A 16-inch gun arrives at the Tiverton railroad station just after "Pearl Harbor," destined for Fort Church in Little Compton. Designed to protect the East Coast from possible invasion from the Axis Powers, this very heavy coastal gun was moved over the highways to Little Compton on two trucks, back to back, very slowly. In some places the truck tires left deep ruts in the macadam roads. A crisis developed at the intersection of Riverside Drive and Main Road where a tricky, angular upgrade occurs to this day. The photo was taken by, and from the collection of, John T Pierce Sr of Portsmouth.

Screenshot

Armageddon Over the Tracks

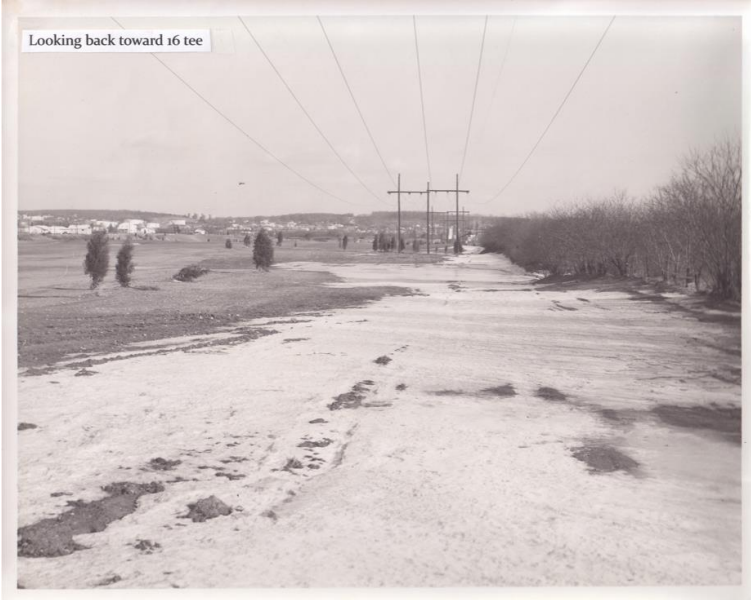


Before & After



Looking Toward Corner of Attleboro Ave. & Massachusetts Blvd.

Before & After



Before & After

14 Toward Common Fence Point



Back in Business 1945 – 1965

Montaup Country Club
Portsmouth, R. I.
GREEN FEE \$1.00
Except Sunday and Holidays \$1.50
VISITORS WELCOME

Ad — 12 May 1950

Montaup Country Club
Change In Green Fees
**SUNDAYS
AND
HOLIDAYS
\$2.25**
VISITORS WELCOME



Ad — 5 June 1953

Montaup Country Club
Common Fence Point, Ports. Tel. Ports. 282

OPENING
Sunday, April 17th.

GREEN FEES
\$1.50 Week Days
**\$2.25 Saturday, Sunday
and Holidays**
\$1.50 After 1:30 P. M.
\$1.00 After 5 P. M., Daily
— VISITORS WELCOME —



Ad — 15 April 1955

Montaup in the 50's



Arthur Mattos



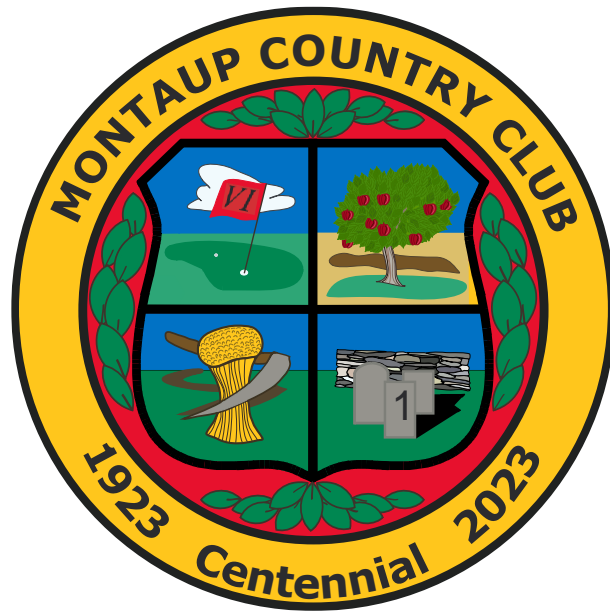
Leo Peloquin - Arthur Mattos

Hurricane Carol 1954



“I played a few days after the ‘54 hurricane with my father [John E. O’Connor, former Montaup Country Club President] and Jimmy Sanders. We had to play #5 way up the fairway ... it was a very long par 3 ... I remember Jimmy Sanders (a very long hitter, a pro at the time) chipped in from the fringe for a 2 ... the course was very wet in places ... didn’t have many trees ... Don’t remember any damage to the club house ... I thought it was pretty bad but my father did said it was nothing like the 38 hurricane ...” — Dick O’Connor

Montaup Country Club Logos



Hard Times Did You Know? 1966

Portsmouth Club Votes Land Sale

Members of the Montaup Country Club on Anthony Road in Portsmouth voted yesterday to authorize the club's board of directors to grant a real estate option on club property to a New Jersey firm. Manuel Medeiros, club president, said this afternoon.

Medeiros said the Montaup Realty Board, which owns club real estate, was authorized to negotiate a sale. The option is being sought by the J. I. Kislak Inc. realty firm for an unidentified industrial customer, Medeiros said.

Fifty-one per cent of Mon-

taup's outstanding shares are held cooperatively by the country club's 200 members. Medeiros said 121 members attended the meeting yesterday. Only 15 members voted against granting the option, he said.

Medeiros said new land possibilities were being considered for the club. "We expect a transfer will not have to be made until construction on the new site is completed," he said. "At this point we expect to be able to complete the transfer by 1968," he said.

"The current golf season will not be affected by the action taken by board members yesterday," Medeiros said.

**Reinvention and Renovation
Roger Turcotte and Frank Tew
1965 - 1983**



Unwelcome Guests 9 September 1977

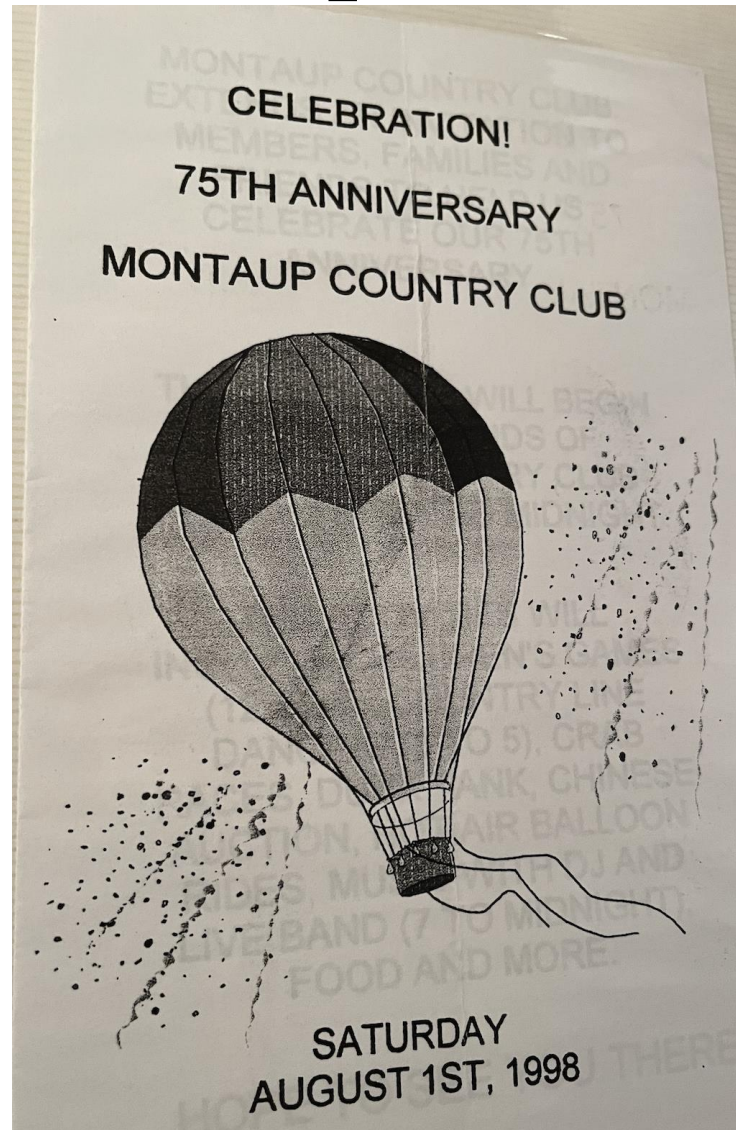


Montaup on the Map Postcard 1982



“One of the finest 18 hole golf clubs in the area, situated on 139 acres within minutes of Mount Hope Bridge. It has a Dining Room and Lounge, excellent Locker Facilities for men and women, a Driving Range, Putting Green and Salt Water Beach. Semi-Private Golf Course accepting green fees and cart rentals available. After a difficult winter our superintendent and maintenance crew are working to prepare the course for another great golfing season.”

Montaup — 1998



George
Darmody



Montaup CC: 75 years old and it's still going strong

If you think you see a lot of smiling faces at golf courses throughout Southern New England, you *ain't* seen *nothing* until you visit the Montaup Country Club in Portsmouth RI.

Montaup recently celebrated its 75th anniversary and the membership is walking around with visible evidence of the club's success over nearly eight decades on their faces — wide, proud smiles.

Montaup president Tony Ferreira is wearing the widest smile. "We have done a lot of repair work over the last few years and are in good financial condition," says Ferreira.

"And, because of a good progressive board of governors, the prospects for the future are bright," Ferreira commented.

He's right about the course which had only three holes in 1923 and has grown to an 18-hole par 71 layout with excellent fairways, challenging rough, manicured greens and several difficult, but enjoyable holes.

Sitting on 141 acres, Montaup was a nine-hole course until 1967, then increased to 18, mainly because of the work of greens keeper Roger Turcotte.

Turcotte, the course superintendent, and Frank Tew, clerk of the works for the Montaup Realty Company, refurbished the back nine in 1966.

Turcotte designed the par 3 12th and par-5 16th hole and remodeled the course, making four of the original nine holes, (10, 11, 17 and 18) part of the back nine.

The property has come a long way since it was inhabited by the Montaup Indians from 1600 to 1800 and later one of the area's largest peach orchards.

Montaup also did its part in World War II.

1999

George Darmody on the O'Brien

C6 The Herald News, Thursday, May 20, 1999

Chip
Away



George
Darmody

O'Brien tourney still going strong

It seems like eons ago when Bill O'Brien, then president of the Montaup Country Club, founded a Member-Guest Four Ball golf tournament for his membership.

The membership responded by naming the event in his honor, and on Memorial Day weekend, 32 teams will tee off in quest of the Bill O'Brien Four Ball championship at the club in Portsmouth, RI.

The way the story goes is that O'Brien played in the annual July Invitational, also a Four Ball event, at the Fall River Country Club and was so impressed by the event that he wanted the Montaup membership to share that joy in its own tournament.

Montaup also was scraping for money and memberships at that juncture and looking for ways to increase its popularity among area golfers. There were not as many people participating in the sport as there are today. Merchandising was a big factor in a club's success or failure.

Enter the Bill O'Brien Four Ball at Montaup. The idea was a success. In fact, the tournament, a three-day competition over Memorial Day weekend, is one of the club's premier events each year.

The merchandising also worked. There has not been any begging or coaxing for teams to fill the 32-team field in over three decades.

The tournament officials now need a qualifying round to make-up the field and each year 31 teams must compete in order to earn the right to advance to the tournament proper.

The tourney's champions of the previous year are the first team in the field and need not qualify.

Last weekend, Montaup hosted its O'Brien qualifying tournament and the 31 teams joined defending champions John Mello and Wayne Almeida to make up the field.

There are some very familiar teams in fold, including one of the tournament's most successful entries, Jack and Ted Ellis, who have taken home several O'Brien championships since their first in 1987.

Jack, the Montaup member, had won three times before teaming up with his brother Ted. Jack Ellis first won with Dennis Cunningham, then with his other brother, Bill.

Jack and Ted Ellis needed a playoff to survive the cut for this year's O'Brien, but when the competition begins on May 29, the Ellis brothers will be among the most feared teams.

If there is a sentimental favorite in the 1999 event it has to be Rick Mudge and Bob Hochu, both excellent golfers who qualified in the final spot. Mudge gained the sentimental tag for his team when he entered a sudden death, five-team playoff alone and secured a tourney berth. Hochu, who had a work commitment, had left after the pair had come in at par 71.

Again in 1999 the field is loaded.

Montaup president Tony Ferreira and southpaw swatter Don Whalley are due. The pair have combined their talents for over a decade and only seem to have championship success in the First Division.

There are several new combinations: When Jack and Ted Ellis won their first title in 1987, they beat Manny Linhares and the late Ray Glasson. Linhares is now partnered with Dan Huck of the Fall River Country Club and if golf savvy plays a role, this could be a winning combination. By the way Linhares and Glasson are one of the few teams to win both the O'Brien at Montaup and July Invitation at the FRCC.

Don L'Heureux, long-time partner of Len Alves, will play his second year with Bill Campbell. L'Heureux needed a substitute for Alves when the latter extended his 'snowbird' residency in Florida and was unavailable for the qualifying round.

Ed Conforti, like Whalley a lefty, has been on the winning side of the ledger and will take to the links with Steve Sampson. Mike Mello and Jim Roarke will be the longest partnership in the event and they have taken home the bacon in the past.

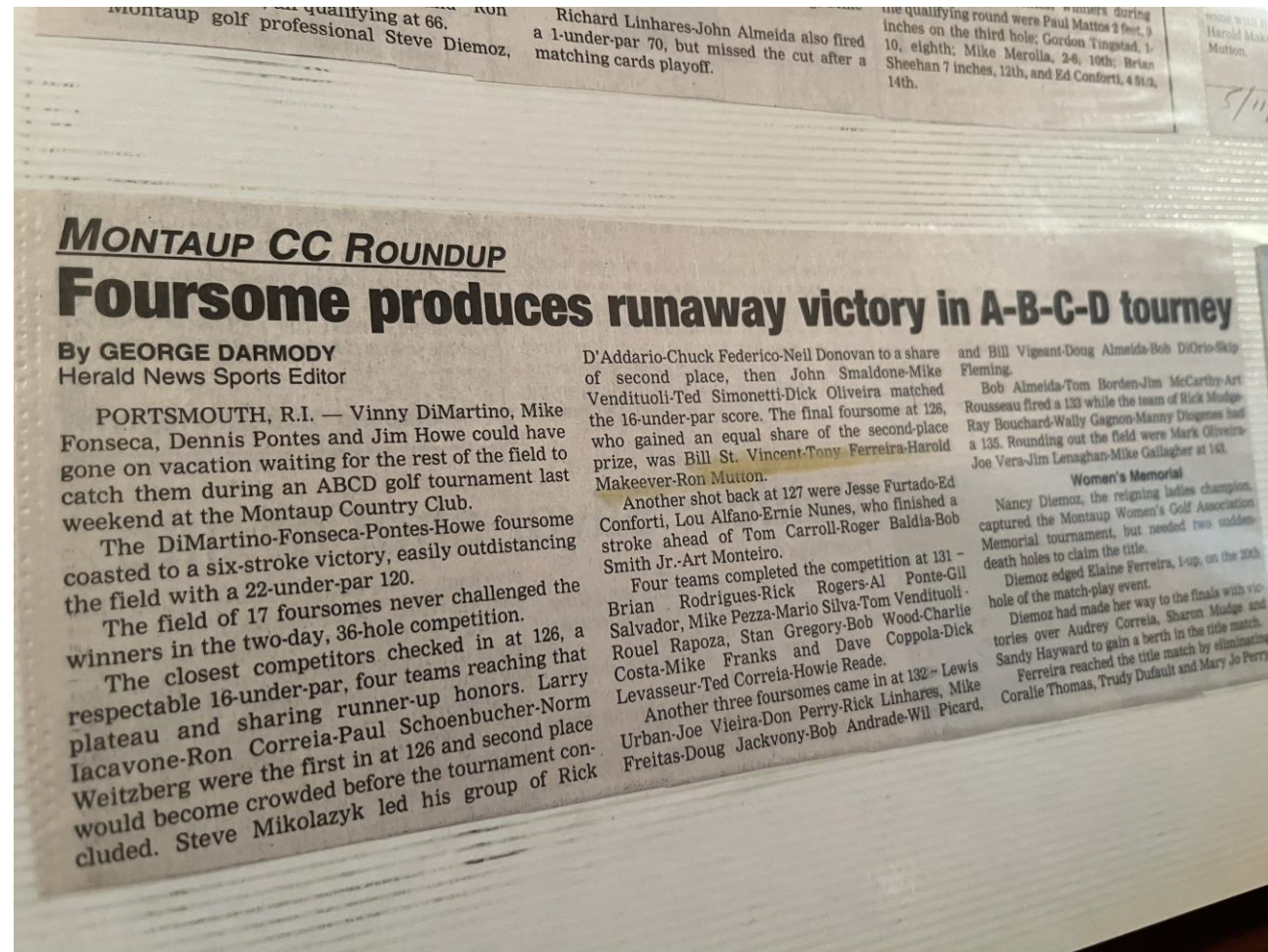
Personally, I like the chances of Joe Alves and Martin, unless two teams drop out and second alternates Bobby Hill and Paul Saunders gain entry. Then I would favor them.

By the way, club pro Steve Diemoz will explain tournament rules during a dinner for all My 27 at Montaup and that event is always H-u-m-a-n-i-t-y.

By GEORGE DARMODY

1999 Did You Know?

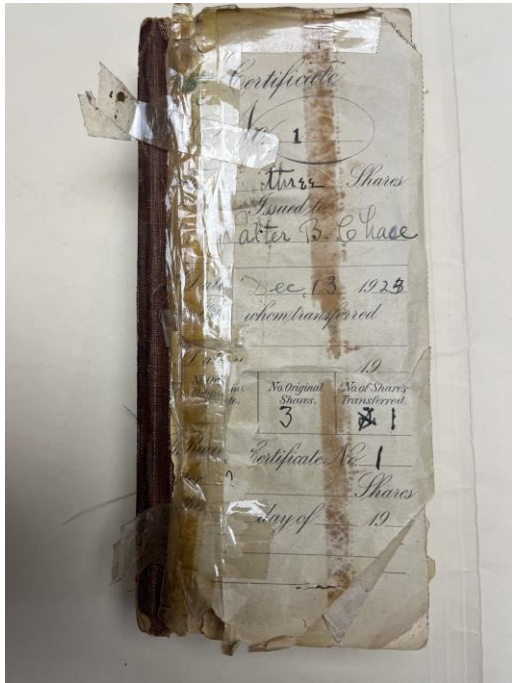
Even A-B-C-D's were covered by the Fall River Herald News!



Hope Springs Eternal



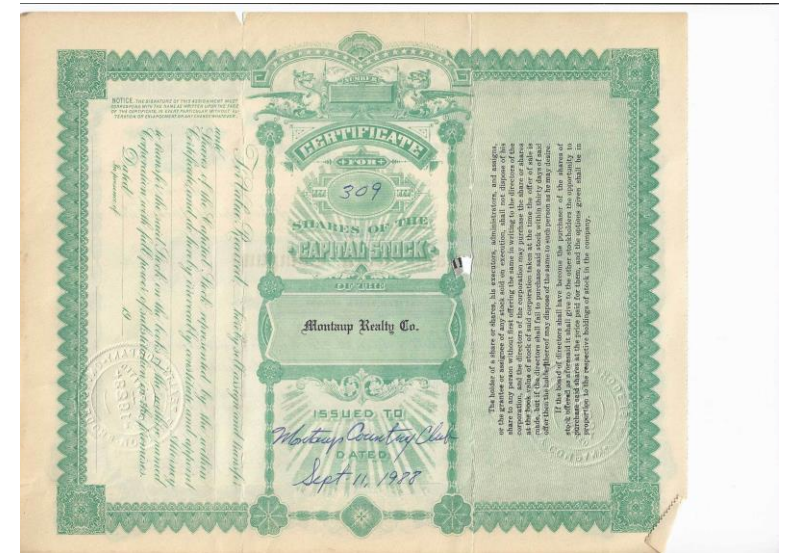
Share and Share Alike



Certificate #1 for 3 Shares Issued to Walter B. Chase on December 13, 1924



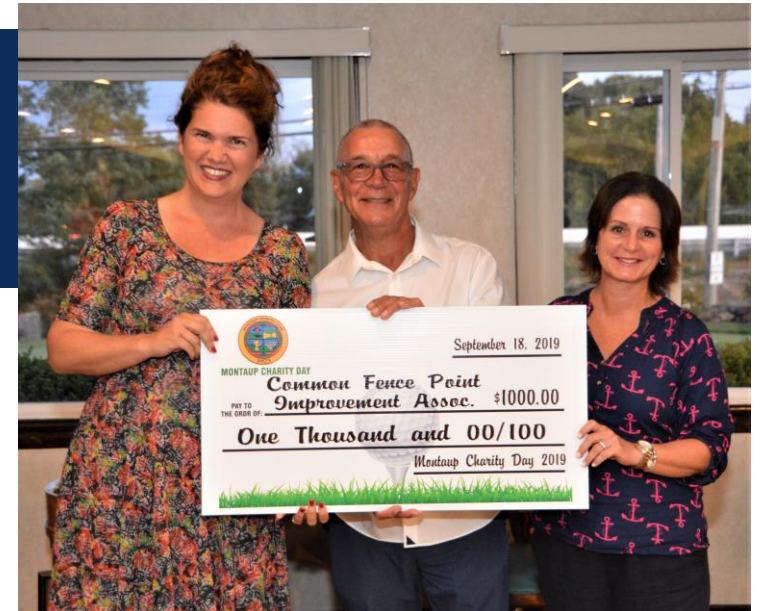
Certificate #372 for 309 Shares Issued to Montaup Country Club on September 11, 1988



Montaup Members Contribute



Harold McKeen – Greg Souza – Ms. Carol Rebutts –
Manny Linhares – Jim Bunas – Russ Wilcox
Delivering a Check to Rose Hawthorne Cancer Home

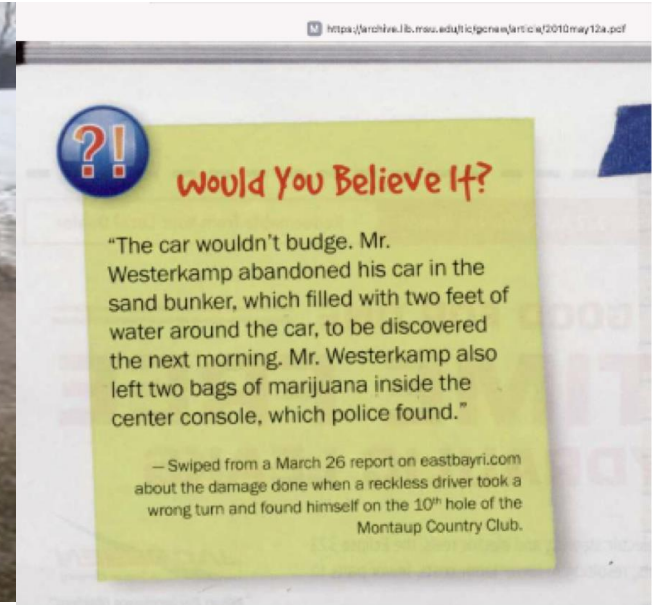


Montaup Charity Day Check Release
Rene Cantin & CFPIA Representatives

Unwelcome Guests



1st Green Accepts Car from Route 24: 16 December 2020
Considering it passed through chain link fence and wooden fence at high speed on an icy roadway it landed softly on the green and no significant damage entailed



Joy Ride in 2010 ... Note snow on green just shy of opening day!

Roger Turcotte and the Grounds Crew



... “I want to thank you and Roger for the hospitality you showed me last week on my visit to Montaup Country Club. The thing that I took from my visit the most was the job that Roger and his crew of 7 are able to do. It is not uncommon for clubs today to have crews of over 30 people and maintenance budgets of over \$1 million. What Roger produces with his crew and budget is phenomenal and Montaup Country Club is lucky to have him.” — Dana Fry — 1999

Roger Turcotte and Crew at Retirement

8th Green New in 2020



Old 8th from Blue Tee Box
One Remaining Apple Tree (foreground right)



New Enlarged Green, Traps and Rough

Montaup Centenarian

World War II veteran celebrates 103rd birthday



If you were to meet Arthur Medeiros at the grocery store or out on the links, you'd probably never guess he was into his third year as a centenarian or that he saw the kind of action in Europe that led to him earning a Bronze Star, two Silver Stars, and three Purple Hearts. [MORE](#)

Let's Make Memories on the Road to 2123

In 2023 Montaup Country Club hosted the Rhode Island Amateur Tournament. It is very appropriate that our grounds crew under the leadership of Bill Coulter and Jamie Codega got to wear RIGA jerseys and share the trophy! Also, as the sun sets over our signature hole, we take time to admire the natural beauty that surrounds us.



Bill Coulter and the Grounds Crew

**Survival of the Fittest:
A Century of Golf at
Montaup Country Club
1923 – 2023**



James M. Ricci
Ted Simonetti
Dave Cwalina
Kerry McAuliffe
Tom McAvoy

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